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# Bush refuses to rule out CIA support of coups

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Washington—George H. W. Bush, nominated by President Ford to head the Central Intelligence Agency, refused yesterday to rule out future clandestine political and military operations by the agency, including support of coups against foreign governments.

Nor, he said, would he favor congressional participation in decisions about covert actions overseas because the President decides such matters and "a joint decision" is not required. He said he was not informed about Angola, a current case of covert operations, but said there did not have to be consultation with Congress prior to the rendering of aid to factions in the former Portuguese colony.

Mr. Bush, whose nomination has been criticized in the Senate because of his assumed political ambition, faced the issue voluntarily in a prepared statement yesterday before it could be raised by members of the Senate Armed Services Committee who must approve him.

He would not allow anyone or any group to promote a vice presidential candidacy for him on the Republican ticket while he headed the intelligence agency, he said, but if he received an offer despite that, "I can not in all honesty tell you that I would not accept."

"To my knowledge," Mr. Bush testified, "no one in the history of this republic has ever been asked to renounce his political birthright as the price of confirmation for any office."

He thus left the door open to possible departure from the CIA after a short tour there. Donald H. Rumsfeld left open the same door when he was confirmed as secretary of defense.

The two men were nominated by President Ford after he fired William E. Colby at the CIA and James R. Schlesinger at the Pentagon November 2. Mr. Colby has stayed on, pending Mr. Bush's confirmation hearings.

The questioning yesterday

promised . . . if the President could dangle the prospect of the vice presidency before him."

Senator Church is expected to enter the field of candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Mr. Bush testified that, having just returned from a year as United States representative in China, he had not realized the "depth of the emotions surrounding the CIA controversy."

He condemned the "outrageous and morally offensive" acts uncovered in congressional inquiries and said he would do all possible to prevent their repetition.

He specifically said any assassination order from a President would bring his resignation with a report to Congress.

And he said a strengthened CIA would stay in the foreign—and out of the domestic—field of intelligence gathering.

Otherwise, Mr. Bush's policies would appear to be in the traditional CIA mold. The agency would continue clandestine operations, where they were thought needed, as well as its normal spying activities and preparation of national intelligence reports.

"I can't tell you that there would never be any support of a coup d'etat," he said at one point. Later, he added that the United States would "tread very, very carefully" on elected governments.

The United States is up against some "pretty ruthless people," he told a critical Senator Gary Hart (D., Colo.). The ability to run covert operations must be kept in the CIA, he said. "We live in a very complicated, difficult world."

was generally friendly, and Mr. Bush dealt adroitly with it, most observers thought. Committee sources expected the panel to approve him with few dissents.

Today, nevertheless, the committee will presumably be urged to reject the nominee—a former Texas congressman and one-time head of the Republican National Committee—by Senator Frank Church (D., Idaho), chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities.

Mr. Church, who will be a witness, told reporters after Mr. Bush's testimony that the nominee's political disavowal was inadequate. The senator said Mr. Bush's position at the CIA would be "hopelessly com-